

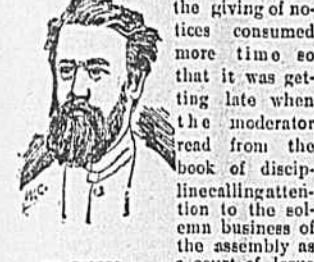
THE BRIGGS CASE

Comes Before the Presbyterian General Assembly.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION

Involved Argued by the Respective Sides--Dr. Briggs Holds That the Assembly is Not the Body to Hear the Appeal--The Synod of New York Should Have Been the Judicial to Pass Upon the Case--The Appeal Entertained.

PORTLAND, ORE., May 26.--Devotional exercises were conducted as usual at the Presbyterian general assembly this morning Mr. Bottone, of Philadelphia, officiating. The reading and approval of minutes and the giving of notices consumed more time so that it was getting late when the moderator read from the book of discipline calling attention to the solemn business of the assembly as a court of Jesus Christ, enjoining due deliberation and warning speakers that they must not interfere in any way to the merits of the case, as it was to be an entirely constitutional argument. Dr. Birch, for the appellant, then took the floor to speak on behalf of himself and colleagues.



In his address Dr. Briggs gave some reasons why the appellants have overleaped the synod of New York. This course is based upon the provision of section 102 of the book of discipline that appeals shall generally be taken to the next superior judiciary. It was claimed at first that this course of procedure is a constitutional form of government. Chapter 12, sections 4 and 5, state that the general assembly shall receive and issue all appeals and shall have the power of deciding in all controversies respecting doctrines and discipline. While the appellants have gone around the ordinary procedure, it has acted in a constitutional and regular manner. The present course is taken in order to get constitutional advice, which the assembly can give, in order to restore peace in the church. Has then, the committee done right to bring this question before this assembly in showing irregularities in the actions of the presbytery of New York?

Second--The question is one of importance. Third--The case involves doctrines which are fundamental to the church, and of greater importance than any other question which has ever agitated it--the historic controversies that have concerned the relations of Gentile Christians to Hebrews, the doctrine of the trinity, and of justification by faith. A GREAT QUESTION. Fourth--A great question is now to be settled--the plea of appellant is forced by presbyteries here represented, which have spoken to a number of more than four score in trumpet tones in opposition to the views referred to. Fifth--The presbytery of New York committed errors in its administration of law and compelled the committee to appeal. Sixth--If the prosecutor was an individual some show might be presented, why regular procedure should be followed, but the appellant is the Presbyterian church in the United States of America. By implication, said Dr. Birch, faithlessness to ordination vows was alleged. In the name of the church and with abundant precedent, in the name of the administration of the law, your appellants respectfully and earnestly ask the general assembly to entertain our appeal. When Dr. Birch took his seat a point of order was made that the appellant in the case is the presbytery of New York. The moderator decided it not well taken. Dr. Briggs took the floor to object to the entertainment of the appeal. He stated that he is not responsible for the action of his presbytery and for it he had not asked, yet he is compelled to appear, seemingly to defend the presbytery. He proceeded to give some account of the history of the case and stated his reasons for appealing. The points made by Dr. Briggs were as follows:

DR. BRIGGS ON THE FLOOR. The reasons presented by appellants are not such as to justify the general assembly in entertaining their appeal. Four reasons are given. First--Their belief that this is one of the most important questions in the history of the Presbyterian church. It is a valid reason why they should appeal to the synod of New York, provided they have a right to appeal, which we do not concede. But it is not a valid reason why they should pass over the synod of New York and appeal to the general assembly. If they think they can sustain their charges the synod of New York is the judicial body before which they should go; otherwise they must assign valid reasons for the opinion that the synod of New York may not do them justice, but the importance of the trial is another reason why the synod, as an intermediate judicial body ought to have its constitutional share in the proceedings. If the assembly could entertain this reason you would wrong the defendant. The defendant does not think it creditable that this general assembly could do him such wrong. The second reason is the desire to secure a recommendation of errors of the defendant by the supreme judicial, but the supreme judicial cannot condemn the defendant or his recourse without a trial, for it lacks original jurisdiction in the case and can only act after a verdict has been given in the presbytery. The reasons cannot be entertained without prejudicing the case. The defendant claims that his address is in entire accord with scripture and the system of doctrine taught in the Westminster confession. Again and again he has affirmed his adherence to the confession and the Holy Scriptures. He is entitled to the presumption of innocence until he is proven guilty after trial. The third reason is that the general

assembly has a special responsibility regarding the doctrine of the church. This is a general statement to which no Presbyterian could make any objection, but it is no reason why the presbytery of New York should be ignored when they dismissed the case. If dissatisfied they should frame charges. They might have then had a trial and a verdict during the past winter, but why is speed necessary? The importance of the case calls for the caution of deliberation.

FURTHER REASONS. This appeal cannot be entertained because there are no precedents to justify it. It is the established usage of the supreme court to refer appeals back to the synod. Third--The appeal cannot be entertained because it would deprive the defendant of a right. Fourth--The appeal cannot be entertained because it might deprive more than 100 ministers and elders of the presbytery of New York, who have taken action in the case by their complaint to the synod, of their right of complaint.

Sixth--The appeal cannot properly be entertained because it should be consolidated with a complaint from some of the parties before the synod. Seventh--The appeal is irregular because notice was given to the presbytery of the appeal to the synod of New York. Eighth--The appeal cannot be entertained because a complaint to the synod signed by more than one-third of those who were present and voting in presbytery acts as a stay until the synod decides whether the committee has the right to exist and therefore the right to appeal.

The reading of this paper took just an hour and twenty-two minutes. The floor was given to Col. McCook, of New York, on behalf of the appellants. Mr. McCook asserted at length that the past history of the cases showed that this committee is a committee of prosecution and an original party. This committee was appointed as a prosecuting committee and every act has been done in the name of the whole church.

THE APPEAL ENTERTAINED. The moderator then stated the question was whether the appeal be entertained. The motion was carried in the affirmative. The question then was upon a report of the minority recommending that the case be sent back to the synod of New York, which was laid on the table. The majority report was then adopted. Then arose the question over the "records of the case." The question was whether the books contained the true records. Dr. Brooks objected to this book purporting to be the records as inaccurate. Judge Taylor made the point that the stenographic report was not a report of the acts of the presbytery, but of occurrences.

Judge Strevell, of Montana, gave notice of protest against the admission of the stenographic report. Adjourned till to-morrow.

METHODISTS ADJOURN.

The Last Day of the Quadrennial Conference at Omaha.

OMAHA, NEB., May 26.--"Blest be the tie that binds" was the hymn sung at the opening of the last day of the Methodist Episcopal general conference this morning. Bishop Fitzgerald was in the chair. It was evident that some of the delegates had already taken their departure, for there were a number of vacant seats in the hall. Bishop Andrews, from the sifting committee, reported that the committee appointed the evening before had done some vigorous slaughtering of insignificant reports, but the reports consigned to the waste basket would never be missed. The committee recommended that the reports touching the book concern be first considered, for they had to do with matters of business that must be attended to. Dr. Hunt, of the New York Book Concern, was given the floor to state several points in the law governing the book concern that needed to be disentangled. The report of the book committee adopted the previous day had run against some previous rules on the discipline that needed to be adjusted harmoniously. The principal point that Dr. Hunt wanted cleared up was the change made in paying the missionary bishops. Dr. Hunt is treasurer of the missionary society, and as the conference had voted to take the salary of the missionary bishops out of the missionary fund instead of the episcopal fund, Dr. Hunt wanted to have some instructions as to how and when and how much he should remit to the missionary bishops. The committee on book concern was instructed to fix the salary of the missionary bishops and instructed Dr. Hunt as to how the funds should be remitted. Bishop Taylor is very much averse to taking his salary out of the missionary funds. The committee on the state of the church reported in favor of the appointment of a commission consisting of three bishops, three ministers and three laymen to consider the advisability of the organic union of all the Methodist churches in the United States. The report was adopted. The committee on missions brought in a red hot report upon the attitude of the church with relation to polygamy. It declared that the church should under no circumstances admit any one who had not entirely abandoned the practice of polygamy. Adopted. A long discussion took place over the matter of church insurance, and a resolution was adopted which provided for the appointment of a commission on insurance to report a plan of insurance at the next general conference. At last the woman question got into the conference. The judiciary committee reported that the word "laymen" in the discipline did not mean both sexes, but that it had reference to men only. The committee did not mean to take the ground that the women should not be admitted but simply that the meaning of the word "laymen" as it was placed in the discipline years ago did not include women. Dr. Hamilton offered a substitute providing that the annual conferences should vote upon the proposition to make the word "laymen" mean men only, and in case the proposition was not carried by a two-thirds vote then the word "laymen" should thereafter mean both men and women. Dr. J. M. Buckley rolled up a vigorous speech to show that the word "laymen" had meant women. He held also that the church had never been ordained by

the Methodist church. He wanted the women to come in early if they came in at all. Dr. Field, of Philadelphia, held that the admission of women would drive the young men and boys out of the church. He pleaded for the young men, he said, by urging the conference and all the women of the church not to insist upon admitting women. A motion was made to lay Dr. Hamilton's amendment on the table. Mr. Hamilton's amendment provides that the word "laymen" as applied to lay delegates must mean male delegates, and in case this interpretation of the word is not sustained by a two-thirds vote of the annual conferences and a three-fourths vote of the general conference then the word laymen shall mean both women and men, and will of course admit the women as lay delegates. Dr. Hamilton's amendment was adopted by a vote of 231 to 174. Dr. Hamilton's substitute was then adopted by a vote of 241 to 160, to take the place of all other parts of the paper and be submitted to the annual conferences. A resolution was submitted to ask the annual conferences to reduce the ratio of representation from one delegate for each forty-five ministers to one for every ninety ministers in the annual conferences. It was adopted by a vote of 167 to 123. The object of this is to make the general conference a smaller body. The roll was then called to see how many of the delegates were present and who they were at the last session, and after the approval of the minutes and the usual resolutions of thanks, the conference, after devotional exercises, adjourned sine die.

THE U. P. ASSEMBLY. The First Day's Session at Pittsburgh--Statistics of the Church. PITTSBURGH, PA., May 26.--The thirty-fourth general assembly of the United Presbyterian church was formally opened in the Second U. P. church, Allegheny, at 10 o'clock this morning by acting moderator Rev. Dr. W. W. White, of Xenia, Ohio. Dr. W. J. Reid, of this city, was secretary. Three names were presented for moderator, Revs. Drs. David McNeill, of Xenia, J. T. McClure, of Wheeling, and Dr. Robert Stewart, of India. Dr. McNeill was elected on the second ballot. Upon taking the chair, he said: The assaults on the new testament were being pressed vigorously. This was no time to loiter. Resolutions were then adopted expressing pleasure over the positions taken by many representatives of the National Congress in opposition to the opening of the World's Fair on Sundays and the sale of liquor on the grounds; also expressing hopes that no appropriation would be made except upon condition that the gates are closed on Sundays and the sale of liquor prohibited. The report on statistics showed sixty presbyteries, 542 ministers with charges, 254 without, 15 ministers received, 24 ordained, 10 died and 7 dismissed. The total membership was 109,018, an increase of 3,000; the total number of Sabbath schools was 1,090, with 98,859 scholars. The total contributions were \$1,286,288. The church extension report showed a balance on hand of \$9,082.42, with total appropriations of \$39,530. There were 76 beneficiaries of the board of education, with receipts of \$12,913.19. The board of home missions expended \$1,038.396. The third Sunday in October was recommended as a day of special prayer for the United States schools.

ONE OF THE FRUITS OF THE McKNILEY BILL--It Stimulates American Invention. PITTSBURGH, PA., May 26.--The test of the new method of tin plate manufacture, which was tried at Braddock yesterday, proved so successful that a factory will be established in that busy borough in which the process will be used. Several dozen sheets of tin plate were made and the quality was all that could be wished for. The tin pots used are double, with the rolls set in an upright position on the top. A saving of both time and labor is secured. Only two men are required at each pot, the usual number being three. The process has been patented in the United States, but not in foreign countries.

THE FIRE RECORD. SCRANTON, PA., May 26.--Dorflinger's cut glass factory, twelve large buildings attached to the works and O'Connor's store at White Mills, Wayne county, have been destroyed by fire. Loss, \$250,000; insurance, \$30,000. Longstreet won. GRAVESEND RACE TRACK, May 26.--The great American stakes, worth \$17,000 to the winner, \$2,000 to the second horse, \$1,000 to the third horse was run off this afternoon before an immense crowd. The track was fast and the weather fair. First race, five furlongs. Bellevee won. Time 1:44. Second race, mile and furlong. Allan Dane won. Time 1:53. Third race, Brooklyn cup, one mile and half. Longstreet won.

Twelve Persons Drowned. MORRILLTON, ARK., May 26.--Captain Barnes, with Mr. Crouch and six of his men, yesterday, rescued from the overflowed lands opposite the south of the Fourche 100 head of horses mules and cattle and eight families. One colored family, consisting of nine persons, also three colored men, were capsized in a skiff and were drowned.

CONDENSED TELEGRAMS.

Before the Baptist Missionary Union adjourned at Philadelphia yesterday Rev. Thomas Dixon, of New York, denounced both political parties for the passage of the Chinese exclusion bill. He declared it a disgrace to the country. The golden wedding of the king and queen of Denmark was celebrated with great pomp at Copenhagen. There was a grand procession, ringing of bells, playing of bands, and the day was a general holiday. The colored citizens state Democratic organization of New York met at Albany yesterday and adopted a platform endorsing Governor Hill's administration, and denouncing the Republicans. Yesterday the President proclaimed the conclusion of the reciprocity treaty with Austria-Hungary. The production of the McDonald oil field yesterday was 23,000 barrels.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

Senator Morgan Says It is the Most Important Issue.

HIS RESOLUTION IN THE SENATE.

A Speech in Which Presidential Possibilities Cut a Figure--Mr. Morgan Says Cleveland Fought Not to Expect the Support of Free Coinage Men. Full Text of Mr. Stewart's Bill--The House Adopts the Sunday Closing Provision--Washington News.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 26.--In the senate to-day Mr. Morgan's silver resolution, which had led to such interesting debate yesterday, was again taken up and Mr. Morgan resumed his argument. He denied that his object was to influence political conventions. He wanted legislation, and helpless as that seemed now, if the senators who indicated their position yesterday by their votes against referring the resolution would adhere steadily and courageously to their convictions, his judgment was that before the close of this Congress that vexed question would have passed entirely out of consideration and the people would have their way. He could not conceive that the President of the United States, who was an avowed bi-metalist, would undertake to set up his judgment finally and in the form of a veto against the expressed will of both branches of Congress. There was no question to day before the people of the United States as came as near to their hearts and their pockets as the question of free coinage of silver. The people were not agitated about changes in the tariff. Mr. Higgins asked Mr. Morgan to give some proof or demonstration of his argument against the gold men. "If I should bring demonstration 'proof as strong as Holy Writ,'" Mr. Morgan replied, "the senator from Delaware would be of the same opinion still, and I will not waste my time about it."

Coming again to the question of the likelihood of a presidential veto to a free silver coinage bill, Mr. Morgan said: "We have had other Presidents to veto silver bills, and what has become of them? There is a very prominent gentleman now before the country whom every Democrat in the United States honestly loves and revere for his many integrity, his great, broad statesmanship and his splendid administration of the government, and yet because Democrats love the people better than they do him they would see him go to his political grave in a moment rather than take him and put him where he could have opportunities to join hands with the senator from Ohio in inflicting the final death blow on silver. The Democrats of this country would not know, in the event of Grover Cleveland being at the head of their ticket and of the senator from Ohio being at the head of the other ticket who to prefer in regard to their attitude to destroy silver. I suppose that the gratitude of these men who have been enabled to expand and contract the currency of the country would give the senator from Ohio the preference over the ex-President."

Mr. Sherman replied to Mr. Morgan and defended the finance committee from the charge made of neglect or inaction. While Mr. Sherman was still speaking the morning hour expired and Mr. Morgan's amendment went over without action. Mr. Stewart immediately arose and moved (in order to afford senators the opportunity to have a test vote) to take up the bill introduced by him, and reported adversely from the committee on finance, to "provide for the free coinage of silver."

Mr. Morgan demanded the yeas and nays. The vote was taken and Mr. Stewart's motion was agreed to--yeas 28, nays 20. Mr. Hill was not in the chamber and did not vote, nor was he paired. The bill was then taken up. The text of Mr. Stewart's bill is as follows: That from and after the date of passage of this act, the unit of value in the United States shall be the dollar and the same may be coined of 412 grains of standard silver, or of 25.8 grains of standard gold; and the said coins shall be legal tender for all debts, public and private. That hereafter any owner of silver, or gold bullion may deposit the same at the mint of the United States to be formed into standard dollars for his benefit and without charge. Section 2. That the provisions of section 3 of "an act to authorize the coinage of the standard silver dollar and to restore its legal tender character," which became a law February 28, 1878, is hereby made applicable to the coinage in this act provided for. Section 3. That the certificates provided for in the second section of this act shall be of denominations of not less than \$1 or more than \$10,000, and such certificates shall be redeemable in coin of standard value. A sufficient sum to carry out the provisions of this act is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. Section 4. That the certificates provided with in this act and all silver and gold certificates already issued shall be receivable for all taxes and dues to the United States of every description, and shall be a legal tender for the payment of all debts, public and private. Section 5. That the owners of bullion deposited for coinage shall have the option to receive coin or its equivalent in the certificates provided for in this act, and such bullion shall be subsequently coined. The debate on the bill was opened by Mr. Stewart, who was followed by Mr. Teller. During the first part of his speech Mr. Hill came into the chamber and took his seat, where he was engaged for some time in conversation with Mr. Stewart. He did not seem at all interested in the speech, and left before it ended. The senate went into executive session and soon adjourned.

IN THE HOUSE.

A Resolution Passed Requiring the Government World's Fair Exhibit to be Closed on Sunday. WASHINGTON, May 26.--Mr. Cleaveham, of North Carolina, the colored member who poured oil on the troubled waters yesterday in the house, was recognized this morning to ask consent for the consideration of a bill appropriat-

ing \$100,000 for the compilation of statistics showing the progress of the colored race from January 1, 1883, to January 1, 1893. Mr. Kilgore, of Texas, objected, and the house went into committee of the whole (Mr. Lester, of Georgia, in the chair) on the sundry civil appropriation bill. The pending question was on the subject of the Sunday closing of the World's Fair. After considerable debate on the amendment offered by Mr. Johnson, of South Carolina, yesterday, the substitute offered by Mr. Stone, requiring the closing of an agreement to close the fair on Sundays and prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors on the grounds was lost--43 to 134. Mr. Dockery, of Missouri, then offered as a substitute the following: "Provided, that the government exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition shall not be open to the public on Sunday." Adopted. The World's Fair paragraphs were finally disposed of. The committee proceeded to the consideration of the clause appropriating \$50,000 for the enforcement of the Chinese exclusion act. To this, a substitute offered by Mr. Loud, of California, was pending, the substitute appropriating \$160,000 to prevent the unlawful entry of Chinese, or registration of Chinese now in the United States, and for the expenses of returning to China all Chinese persons found to be unlawfully in the United States. Mr. Holman, of Indiana, in opposing the substitute, stated that the estimates for this service were only \$60,000. After further debate, Mr. Loud's substitute was rejected, and on motion of Mr. Holman, the appropriation carried in the bill was increased to \$60,000.

ANTI-HARRISON MEN

Carry the Day in the Twelfth Indiana District.

BITTER FIGHT IN CONVENTION.

Which Finally Instructs for Blaine. The Defeated Harrison Candidate for Permanent Chairman Attempts to Take the Chair and is Ejected from the Platform--The Antis Have Everything Their Own Way and Make Use of Their Advantage.

FR. WAYNE, IND., May 26.--The Twelfth district convention met here to-day. The Harrison men nominated L. W. Walker, of Noble county, as permanent chairman, and the anti-Harrison men nominated Hon. J. W. Baker, of White-ly county. The election of chairman was ordered to be taken by ballot by a vote of 33 to 35. This was a victory for the antis. On taking the vote twenty-nine ballots were cast for Baker and three ballots were thrown in from the counties of Dekalb, Noble and Steuben, which it was demanded should be counted at the full number of delegates to which these counties were entitled under the call. The temporary chairman decided that they could not be counted so. An appeal was taken from the decision of the chair, and he was sustained by a vote of 47 to 27, and the chairman declared Baker elected. Great confusion ensued. Mr. Walker attempted to take the chair, but was ejected from the platform by the temporary chairman. Mr. Baker then took the chair. The convention adjourned to 2:45 p. m. At 3:45 p. m. the convention reassembled and was called to order by Chairman Baker. Resolutions endorsing the candidacy of Hon. James G. Blaine were then presented and adopted, also instructing delegates from the Twelfth congressional district to cast their vote for him at Minneapolis.

AN ENJOYABLE BANQUET

By the Builders' Exchange at the Mc Lure House Last Evening.

THE Builders' Exchange held its first annual banquet last evening at the Mc Lure House, and it was a big success. Wilson rapped the guests to order there were 115 members and guests present, all intent on having a good time. An elegant menu, consisting of nine courses, was served in splendid style by a corps of trained waiters. The tables were arranged in a long line, with the officers at the head, and on big side-tables arranged for the press and guests. This gave all present a good view of the proceedings. All the tables were tastefully decorated with flowers. W. A. Wilson, president of the exchange, who acted as toast master, was seated at the head of the table, with Ed M. Holliday, the vice president, and R. F. Caldwell on the right of him. W. W. Woods, of Woods Bros., and P. J. Gilligan sat on his left. After an hour had been spent in doing justice to the menu, Mr. Ed. Holliday arose and announced the first toast of the evening, "The Builders' Exchange," which was responded to by Mr. Wilson, who said the organization was effected on November 4, 1889, for mutual protection and the general welfare of both employers and employees and for the improvement of the building trades. He gave some of the splendid results of that organization. Mr. E. M. Holliday responded to the toast, "Our Guests," and bade all a hearty welcome both to their first banquet and to the ranks of the Builders' Exchange. This provoked a great deal of applause. The toast, "The Relations of Architects to Contractors," was responded to in a splendid manner by Mr. E. B. Franzheim, who spoke of the good fellowship of a most cordial nature that had been brought about by the exchange, and he hoped they would always act in harmony and accord. "The Importance of Competition in Building" was replied to by John S. Trimble, who spoke of the necessity of starting all on an equal basis and in fairness. To B. F. Caldwell was assigned the toast, "Apprentices and trade schools." He opened in a witty manner that brought forth roars of laughter, but becoming more earnest, he dwelt upon the necessity and importance of manual training schools in this city. He showed that Ohio county could not raise enough products for home consumption, and that manufacturers and builders were compelled to import skilled labor from other places. There is difficulty in getting capable apprentices, all due to the fact that we have no training schools to learn trades, and the shops now-a-days do not furnish the opportunities with their improved machinery. Men only do one thing at a time, and when they lose their positions they are at sea, because of lack of knowledge of some good trade. Mr. Caldwell closed with a generous offer of \$1,000 to the Board of Education to start a training school in this city, and said others he knew would do as well. Mr. C. P. Hamilton replied to the toast, "The improvements in building and style of work," and showed the difference in the style of architecture in the city to-day and in the past decade. Short speeches were made by Messrs. Woods, Carl Hamilton, O'Neill, Lutz, McAdams, Kennedy and P. J. Gilligan, all in a happy vein, every one being thoroughly enjoyed. Almost every building trade was represented among the guests or members.

STEAMSHIP NEWS.

New York, May 26.--Arrived--Steamer Wagonland, from Antwerp.

Weather Forecast for To-day.

For West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, showers, followed by fair weather in Ohio and West Virginia; slightly cooler; winds becoming west.

TEMPERATURE YESTERDAY.

As furnished by C. SCHNEPP, druggist, corner Market and Fortenberry streets.

7 a. m. 65; 9 a. m. 65; 11 a. m. 65; 1 p. m. 65; 3 p. m. 65; 5 p. m. 65; 7 p. m. 65; 9 p. m. 65; 11 p. m. 65; Weather--Changeable.

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